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Voluntary - Public

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Bosnia and Herzegovina

Post: Sarajevo

Crop Situation Update

Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

MY 2009/2010 wheat area is estimated at approximately 30,000 hectares (ha), which is approximately a 50-percent decline from the previous season. Total wheat production is estimated at 90,000 tons. Adverse winter conditions that prolonged sowing until mid-December and the availability of low-priced wheat imported from the region are the main reasons for this decline.

Corn was sown on 185,000 ha, which is similar to the previous season, with production estimated at 740,000 tons. Bosnia and Herzegovina largely depends on grain imports and annually imports around 350,000 – 450,000 tons of wheat and 250,000 tons of corn. Traditional suppliers are Serbia, Hungary, and Croatia.

General Information:

Author Defined:

Wheat

Total estimated wheat area for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is 30,000 ha, which is more than a 50-percent decline from previous season, according to official statistics. Wheat production is estimated at 90,000 tons. There are several reasons for such a decline; one of them is that wheat was sown rather late because of rainy weather during the sowing period. Sowing is normally done until October 25; however, approximately half of the total wheat area was sown in late November once the weather conditions improved, and in some areas wheat was sown even during the first half of December. An average wheat yield for BiH is 3t/ha so the estimated production is 90,000 tons. The wheat that was sown in time was flooded for a long time so at least 10% was severely damaged. The wheat sown later has yielded much better because the weather conditions were favorable for wheat development during most of the winter.

Wheat area has continually decreased over the last several years, while corn, soy, rape seed and vegetables areas are increasing because of better profitability. Old technology and outdated mechanization coupled with low investment capability affect wheat producers more every year. Bosnian farmers say they are unable to sell their wheat and compete with low-priced wheat coming from neighboring countries such as Serbia. Farmers think that local mills prefer imported wheat because it's cheaper while local mills say they are unable to make a good-quality bakery products using locally produced wheat. The stocks of wheat from the previous season are mainly fed to animals and some are still kept on the farm because of availability of imported cheaper wheat on the market, so large quantity of wheat from the current season will be probably used as feed even this year.

Corn

Corn sowing was completed in the first half of May on a total area of 184,600 ha, which is similar to the previous season. An average corn yield of 4 t/ha will result in a total production of 740,000 tons.